The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Nothing is more terrible than to see ignorance in action.—Goethe.

WHOLE NO. 1346 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 27, NO. 5

Prompt Passage of Federal Housing Bill Necessary to Meet Shortage of Homes

Senator Wagner Says His Bill for Present Congress Will Embody Principles of Bill Passed by Senate Last Year—Measure Is Endorsed by A. F. of L. to Liquidate Deficiency in Dwellings for Low-Income Workers—Over 14 Million Dwelling Units Must Be Constructed by 1945—Death Rate Is High in Slum Areas.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York told the National Public Housing Conference here that his Federal Housing Bill drafted for the consideration of the present Congress will embody in full the principles set forth in the Wagner-Ellenbogen bill passed by the Senate last year, but which was not considered by the House of Representatives owing to the rush of other business just prior to adjournment.

"I look upon President Roosevelt's inaugural statement that one-third of our people are ill-housed as a summation of nation-wide sentiment," Senator Wagner continued. "I further regard the President's stirring remarks as the harbinger of determined and comprehensive action at this session of Congress toward eradicating the slums and putting America in the vanguard of the better-housed nations."

There is no adequate reason for delay by Congress in enacting an adequate housing measure.

The Wagner-Ellenbogen Bill, favorably acted on by the Senate during the last session of Congress, was unanimously endorsed by the recent 1936 convention of the American Federation of Labor, which also adopted the report of the Executive Council of the Federation on "Housing for Wage Earners," and approved and directed a "continuation of the vigilant and constructive effort of the Executive Council to promote through legislation the durable construction of housing for wage earners, with particular emphasis upon the importance of substantiality of housing to be purchased as homes."

Elaborate statistics were cited by the Council to demonstrate that over fourteen million new dwellings will be required by 1945 to adequately provide housing accommodations for the masses of our people.

Slums Menace Health of Workers

On slum conditions in New York City the Council said:

"In the city of New York alone 516,360 families, or about 1,750,000 persons, live in slum areas. This is approximately 25 per cent of the residential population of the city. Of the dwelling units occupied by these families 236,000 have no tub or shower; 190,000 have no private indoor water closets; 244,000 have no hot water supply whatever. About 290,000 dwelling rooms are without outside windows.

"In the case of these half million families living in the slum areas of New York City, during the decade between 1925 and 1935, the death rate due to all causes was 84 per cent higher among these families than in the rest of the city. In the same period, the tuberculosis rate was 219 per cent higher. The death rate caused by spinal meningitis was 244 per cent higher. The diphtheria rate 202 per cent higher and the rate of death caused by fire was more than 200 per cent higher than in the remainder of the city.

"Crowded insanitary surroundings in which great masses of American workers in many industries are compelled to live are a constant threat to their own health and a menace to the health of their children. Contagion spreads rapidly under those conditions and such workers' communities fall easy prey to deadly epidemics."

A. F. of L. Backs Housing Movement

Pointing out that the delay in the launching of a housing program by the Federal government "sufficiently comprehensive to meet the most insistent housing needs" caused organized labor to initiate "an active campaign in support of a long-range program of low-rent housing, nation-wide in scope," the Council continued:

"The Labor Housing Conference, which was organized for this purpose, coordinated the activity of thousands of labor organizations actively interested in housing for wage-earners throughout the country. In every sizeable community, local labor housing committees were set up in cooperation with local building trades councils and central labor unions. In October, 1935, the Atlantic City convention of the American Federation of Labor sounded a call to wage-earners in the labor movement to back with united strength the demand for housing legislation.

"Pursuant to the action of the Atlantic City convention, a committee of the American Federation of Labor was appointed to aid, direct and collaborate with the Labor Housing Conference in providing information, promoting legislation, developing projects, and protecting the interests of Labor and consumer in the housing movement. This committee, appointed by the Executive Council at its January meeting, was constituted as follows: Chairmen, Harry C. Bates, president of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union, vice-president, American Federation of Labor; John Coefield, president of Plumbers and Steam Fitters United Association, vice-president, American Federation of Labor; M. J. Colleran, president of Operative Plasterers International Association.

Wagner-Ellenbogen Bill Introduced

"The legislative program developed by the Labor Housing Conference and the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor was made public on February 27, when it received its final approval at a meeting of 19 building trades organizations and was transmitted to the President.

"Bills embodying the basic features of this program were introduced in Congress by Senator Wagner, of New York, who for many years had advocated housing legislation, and by Representative Ellenbogen of Pennsylvania. The Wagner-Ellenbogen bill was designed to stimulate, through federal loans and subsidies, the construction by local agencies of safe and sanitary dwellings for low-income families. This federal assistance was to encourage slum clearance and to provide a wide base for the general revival of the durable goods and building industries and the re-employment of workers in those industries.

Creates State Housing Authority

"The bill contemplated the creation of an independent corporate agency, the United States Housing Authority, to administer the program. Local public housing societies composed of beneficiaries of the program in a given community were also provided for, to administer and promote low-rent housing. To initiate the plan a small bond issue was planned for loans to be made available at small interest rates, while grants were to be covered by appropriations also of modest proportions. Safeguards protecting labor on construction work on these projects were embodied in the bill, including minimum wages and hours and the anti-kick-back provision. The bill recognized the fact that private enterprise cannot alone do the job that must be done, providing, at the same time, every possible safeguard against competition with private industry.

Must Be Passed Promptly

"This bill very nearly became law in the last session of Congress. It passed the Senate by a large majority. In the last days of the session, however, the bill was caught in the last-minute legislative jam and failed to reach the floor of the House, although its approval was assured by that body as well.

"The United States Housing Bill, unchanged in any important respect except for a larger appropriation of funds and greater bond-raising powers, can and must be passed this coming winter. Senator Wagner has promised to lead the fight again."

The Council added that American Federation of Labor Housing Committee and the Labor Housing Conference were planning coordinated work in the interest of the United States Housing Bill during the first session of the Seventy-fifth Congress, and declared that organized labor was determined to place the measure on the statute books during 1937.

1,200 TRUCK DRIVERS SECURE PACT IN STRIKE

Philadelphia Agreement Also Lands Wage Increases From 125 Furniture Warehouse and Moving Firms.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A sweeping victory of outstanding importance was won here, after a four weeks' strike, by about 1,200 truck drivers, employed by 125 furniture warehouses and moving firms. The settlement included recognition of the union and pay increases.

A tentative agreement was made between the Household Goods Movers, the employers' group, and Local Union No. 107, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, with provision for further conferences to arrive at a permanent agreement through collective bargaining, the strikers in the meantime returning to work. Mayor Wilson's Labor Board, which has participated in a number of labor dispute settlements and prevented others, aided in bringing about the settlement in this instance.

The agreement provided definitely for the "closed shop," which is to say that the union is recognized as the exclusive collecting bargaining agency for the truck drivers and helpers employed by the concerns participating in the settlement. Local wages for drivers and packers were set at 70.08 cents an hour; helpers and warehousemen, 56.02 cents an hour; long distance wages (for more than 40 miles from City Hall), for helpers 50 cents an hour and for drivers and packers, 60 cents an hour, with allowance of $1 a night and money for meals. The permanent agreement, expected to be arrived at soon, will probably include all gains secured by the workers in the tentative agreement, with the possibility of providing still further advances.

PAY INCREASES SECURED BY MANY PARIS WORKERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Recently 15,000 delivery men and produce handlers in Paris, France, declared an occupation strike. They were soon joined by thousands of workers in retail grocery stores. The men demanded increases in pay to compensate for currency devaluation. Premier Leon Blum assumed personal charge of negotiations, a settlement being effected that brought a gain for the workers.

Oral pleas having previously failed, a strike of one-hour, repeated at intervals, by public service workers, including bus, street car, gas, water and electric workers, focused attention upon the plight of these workers and brought results. Increases in pay were demanded, ranging from 7 to 15 per cent. The Municipal Council heard the pleas of a delegation from the workers, then declared in a public session that "the Municipal Council is one of the last ramparts against rising revolution" and demanded that the public service workers receive satisfaction.

EDITORIALS

COST OF RECOVERY

The stupendous financial burden assumed by the Federal Government in aiding the restoration of recovery and providing relief for some of the unemployed workers was revealed by Congressman James P. Buchanan, chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, in presenting to the House the $900,000,000 emergency appropriation bill designed to enable the Government to carry on its emergency work for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Declaring that he would give a "bird's-eye picture of the entire situation from the beginning," Mr. Buchanan said:

"In the fiscal year 1933 we expended for recovery and relief $1,285,000,000. I shall deal only in round figures. In the fiscal year 1934, during which year we made the maximum expenditure, we spent $3,993,000,000. In the fiscal year 1935 we expended $3,506,000,000, or $487,000,000 less than we expended in 1934. This is making some progress toward economy. In the fiscal year 1936 we expended $3,263,000,000, or $243,000,000 less than we expended in 1935. In 1937, if this appropriation of $790,000,000 is made, we will expend $3,184,000,000, or $77,000,000 less than we expended last year, 1936.

"This makes a grand total of all expenditures up to the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 1937, of $15,232,000,000; and this is made up of loans, grants, direct relief, work relief, everything that has been occasioned by recovery and relief, including the Civilian Conservation Corps. Out of this grand total between $3,000,000,000 and $4,000,000,000 is recoverable. The sum of $12,000,000,000, therefore, is about what relief and recovery has cost us. From this, however, should be subtracted the permanent value of all the improvements made by the expenditure of this $12,000,000,000. I will let each Member estimate the value of these improvements for himself; improvements such as school buildings, municipal light and power plants, dams, roads and such things."

If from the very beginning of the depression those who own and control industry and commerce had regarded profits as secondary and applied the philosophy of organized labor to maintain wages and shorten hours, thus keeping up a steady flow of mass purchasing power, the collapse of prosperity would have had a short life, business would have quickly recovered, the unemployed army would have been speedily liquidated, the billions of dollars which the Federal Government has poured out continuously for five years would have been reduced to the vanishing point, and reasonable profits would have been restored.

These objects were the original conception of the National Industrial Recovery Act. But within a few months after its inauguration organized business made maximum profits for the few instead of genuine recovery for the many its sole object—with the resulting necessity of continuing subsidies from the United States Treasury. The net debit now stands at around $12,000,000,000, with the end not yet in sight.

SHORTER HOURS TO MAKE JOBS FOR THE IDLE

The current issue of the Monthly Survey of Business of the American Federation of Labor trenchantly declares that "the foremost economic problem of 1937" is "to find work for the unemployed."

Under the stimulus of billions of dollars of Federal funds poured into the stream of banking, industry and commerce business has recovered until profits are approaching normal prosperity conditions. But because business has grabbed an altogether inequitable portion of returning prosperity and at the same time has lengthened the hours of labor, the army of the unemployed still remains at a high figure that is socially alarming. According to the Business Survey "in October, 1936, 8,894,000 men and women were still without normal employment in American industries, and with the coming of winter unemployment in November, this number rose to 9,004,000."

In commenting on this gruesome condition the Survey says:

"This fact is of tragic import to our whole nation. Millions of these unemployed have been for several years without their normal work. Outcasts of our economic order, they have been forced into degrading poverty, deprived of any chance to make their normal contribution to society by creating wealth and earning a decent income. A nation equipped to produce a comfort living level for all cannot brook such human waste. What is the prospect for the years ahead? How can we meet this problem?"

Pointing out under the period of NRA codes "hours were reduced and held close to 37⅝ per week on the average," and that "nearly 2,000,000 persons were put to work by this shortening of hours," the Survey makes the following statement regarding lengthening of hours after the Supreme Court ended the National Industrial Recovery Act and the effect of the longer hours on unemployment:

"Since NRA standards were abolished, hours have been lengthened until in October, 1936, the average work week was 41½ hours, almost back to precode levels. Average figures do not distinguish between actual lengthening of work week and the change from part time to full time. We know from records covering more than 4,500,000 employes, however, that thousands of firms deliberately lengthened their work week, and that in these firms alone there would have been jobs for 839,000 more workers today if NRA standards had been held."

Emphasizing the necessity of drastic reduction in the length of the work week as the major remedy for unemployment, the Survey adds:

"If in the last two years we had reduced hours to 35 per week instead of lengthening them to 41½ at October, 1936, levels of business we could have added about 3,000,000 workers to our payrolls. Whatever our industrial progress in the next few years there can be no hope of total reemployment unless the work week is progressively shortened. To increase leisure is a true gain in national wealth, releasing creative energies of our people for education and cultural activities, for home life and wholesome recreation."

Confronted with this same problem of increasing business prosperity coupled with millions of workers permanently kept in the jobless army and the constantly larger output of other millions at work, the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor reaffirmed its endorsement of the "five-day week and the six-hour day without any reduction in the hourly, daily or weekly pay," declared this objective of the five-day week and six-hour day the "paramount objective" of the convention, and instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to spare no effort in enlisting the support of all the people in its behalf and in giving the widest scope, direction, publicity and inflexible purpose to this program."

In addition, the convention reaffirmed its support of the Black-Connery Thirty-Hour Week Bill and instructed the officers of the A. F. of L. to mobilize the influence of the entire labor movement for its prompt enactment into statute law.

(From January 25 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

CLEANING AND DYE HOUSE WORKERS UNION GRANTED CHARTER BY A. F. OF L.

Federal Labor Unions Set Up Organization For An Industry Which Employs Around 250,000—Drive Will Be Made Against Low Wages and Long Hours, Green Says.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Delegates from a number of federal labor unions composed of workers in the cleaning and dyeing industry established an international union here on January 22 under a charter granted by the American Federation of Labor.

The new union was launched at the Headquarters of the A. F. of L. with a membership of over ten thousand. It covers an industry with around 250,000 employes.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement relative to the newly-chartered organization:

"A new international union called the International Association of Cleaning and Dye House Workers was organized and launched by the American Federation of Labor today. It is the one hundred and fourteenth international union which has been chartered by the American Federation of Labor. It starts with a membership in excess of ten thousand.

Built Up by A. F. of L.

"Federal labor unions of cleaners and dyers already established by the American Federation of Labor in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and other cities throughout the country were blended into this international union. More than thirty delegates representing federal labor unions of cleaners and dyers participated in the formation of this new international union.

"An aggressive, consistent organizing campaign has been carried on by the American Federation of Labor in all cities throughout the country among those employed in cleaning, dyeing and pressing establishments. This splendid new organization, with a membership in excess of ten thousand, represents the organized activities which have been carried on.

Humane Work Conditions Sought

"The cleaning and dyeing industry represents a very potential field for organized labor activities. There is a potential membership in this field of two hundred and fifty thousand. Wages are low, competitive conditions are bad, hours of labor long. The American Federation of Labor will cooperate with this new international union and will specialize in an effort to lift the wage level, to eliminate long hours of employment and to establish decent, humane, American conditions of employment in the cleaning and dyeing industry.

"This new international union is launched under the most favorable conditions. The delegates in attendance at the conference where this new international union was formed, manifested great enthusiasm and expressed sincere and devoted loyalty to the American Federation of Labor. An intensive, aggressive organization campaign will be carried forward by the new international union and the American Federation of Labor among those employed in the cleaning and dyeing industry.

"The officers of this new International Association of Cleaning and Dye House Workers are: President, W. S. Gross of Kansas City, Missouri; first vice-president, John Zitello, of Cleveland, Ohio; secretary-treasurer, Harold Greenwald of Cleveland, Ohio."

TASK WORK BRINGS STRIKE

Kitchener, Can. (AFLNS).—The imposition of "task work" on relief workers here resulted in 80 men going on strike. Each striker lost $2, which was taken from their relief payments.

Canadian Labor News Condensed

Wage Increases, Shorter Hours, Strikes, Industrial Codes and Pay Envelope Taxes Keep Wealth Producers Busy.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The following summary of matters of interest concerning working men and women in Canada is compiled from Canadian newspapers:

END OF WAGE TAX VISIONED

From Winnipeg comes word that Manitoba Province officials are seriously considering the ending of the 2 per cent wage tax and substituting alternative methods of raising revenue to maintain a balanced budget. The tax on wages has been bringing in about $1,500,000 annually. The 2 per cent wage tax was imposed as an emergency measure in 1933 and directly taxes the wages of all working citizens earning $50 or more monthly, in addition to the regular annual income tax. Employers, acting with the authority of Provincial Government agents, deduct the tax from pay envelopes on each regular pay period. Although the legislation was upheld by the Privy Council recently, there has been widespread complaint against the 2 per cent wage tax, as imposing undue hardships on workers of small income, regardless of their respective ability to pay.

C.N.R. CLERKS ASK PAY BOOST

Minister of Labor Rogers apointed an additional Railway Conciliation Board, which will deal with a dispute between the Canadian National Railways and 10,000 clerks and other classes of employees belonging to the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees. The dispute centers around a demand of the workers for restoration of the remaining 10 per cent wage cut put into effect about five years ago. A similar application on behalf of 100,000 employees of the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific Railways has been heard but no decision announced. The special boards are set up under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. There are seventeen brotherhoods of railway employees in Canada.

JUDGE SCRAPS PRINTERS' CODE

The Province of Alberta will have to go all through the routine again of establishing a printers' code, following a decision of Magistrate Gibson, at Edmonton, who ruled that the original code adopted sometime ago is non-operative, because of an omission in the Order-in-Council proclaiming it. The judgment affected only the printers' code, although it is only one of several such codes put into effect in recent months, under provisions of the Trade and Industry Act. The printers' code set fair prices, below which it was declared illegal to sell, and listed a large number of unfair business practices, which were prohibited.

MUNICIPAL STREET RAILWAY PROSPERS

Returning prosperity was reflected in the annual report of the Toronto Transportation Commission, in charge of the city's municipally owned street car system, which showed an increase of .95 per cent over the previous year. Passenger traffic in December, 1936, was 13,917,624 fares, as compared with 13,388,293 fares in December, 1935. Revenue pasengers carried during the past year totaled 150,135,192.

NURSES WIN 8-HOUR DAY

The eight-hour day has been established in Toronto by the Central Registry of Graduate Nurses, composed of special and private nurses, in hospitals, replacing the 12-hour work day which was long in effect. The new schedule became effective January 15. The wage rate will be for the present $4 per day and one meal for each nurse, thus costing the patient "not more than 75 cents more a day." The move met with commendation from doctors and hospital authorities, who pointed out that it would spread employment, make life "more livable" for the nurses and increase their efficiency.

SHORT-WEIGHT DEALERS FINED

The eternal vigilance necessary to protect the poor from the wiles of unscrupulous merchants, through the medium of an adequate weights and measures law, is found as essential in Canada as in the United States. Typical of this was the appearance of three defendants before Magistrate Cowan, in Toronto, a few days ago, all of whom were found guilty of giving short weight to customers in the various stores. Fines of $10 or ten days were imposed in each case.

PRINTERS ASK NEW PAY SCALE

Local No. 91, International Typographical Union, at Toronto, has named a committee to negotiate a new contract, including a revised wage scale, with newspaper publishers. This local also announced that it is joining other unions in an effort to secure amendments to the Industrial Standards Act.

RELIEF EXPENSE CUT URGED

Relief of unemployed and distressed people is a vital problem in Canada as well as "the States." The Dominion Government has spent about $225,000,000 and Provincial Governments and the municipalities a like amount for relief since the depression began six years ago. Now that business conditions are improving, 60,000 more men are employed than at this time last year, with trade expanding, it is proposed by the Federal Government that the amount available for relief be drastically reduced. This proposal meets with wide approval from business interests, for it follows the questionable policy of adjusting the needs of the jobless to the financial needs of the Government, instead of actually adjusting relief to the needs of the jobless.

GARMENT STRIKE AVOIDED

A possible strike in the Toronto cloak and suit industry was avoided through conferences directed by Louis Fine, of the Ontario Provincial Department of Labor, at which adjustment of differences was made through the orderly method of collective bargaining between union representatives and the Toronto Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Fine said this was the first time in years that controversies between employers and workers had been disposed of without industrial strife. The settlement involves sixty factories, employing 1,800 people.

$200,000 For Continuing La Follette Labor Spy Probe Asked by A. F. of L.

Present Appropriation of $15,000 Is Held Wholly Inadequate for Complete Investigation of Interference by Private Detective Agencies with Civil Liberties, Including Legitimate Activities of Trade Unions.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The announcement by the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, whose chairman is Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, that it will ask the Senate for an additional appropriation in order that its investigation of the violation of fundamental civil liberties, including the right of the workers to organize in labor unions and carry on union work free from anti-union employers and their agents, is approved by progressive forces everywhere.

Evidently with but a slight knowledge of the importance and extent of the inquiry, the Senate last Summer appropriated only $15,000 for the use of the committee. It has been shown that this sum is merely a bagatelle compared with the nation-wide scope of private detective and labor spy agencies already uncovered by the Committee.

The investigation has revealed that large corporations are paying these spy agencies hundreds of thousands of dollars to break strikes, destroy unions, provide employers with information designed to enable them to discriminate against their employes because of union affiliation or activity and for sundry other gutter services whose sole object is the destruction of the bona fide labor movement.

Approved by A. F. of L. Convention

The importance of the investigation conducted by the La Follette Committee was stressed by the recent annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, in Tampa, Fla., which was informd by the A. F. of L. Executive Council that the scope of the investigation covered "violations of the right of free speech and assembly and undue interference with the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively," and that the purpose of the inquiry is to acquire knowledge of the full extent to which the right of labor to organize is denied by violation of the rights included in civil liberties.

The convention did not rest with enthusiastically commending the investigation. It also gave the La Follette Committee assurance of the complete support and cooperation of the American Federation of Labor and recommended that the Executive Council of the Federation mobilize its efforts to secure an appropriation of not less than $200,000 for the use of the committee in order that the various ramifications of private detective agencies in labor disputes and in the field of civil rights may be thoroughly explored.

Following is the report of the Resolutions Committee of the A. F. of L. Convention on the investigation and the urgent necessity of providing adequate funds for its continuance, which the convention unanimously adopted:

"The Senate appropriation for the work of the La Follette Investigating Committee was wholly inadequate, a condition which has retarded its activities. In the meantime there has developed a well organized effort to kill any further investigation by the committee.

Records Concealed or Destroyed

"It is reliably reported that the private detective agencies and many of the corporations who are their employers, are concealing or destroying their records.

"Testimony is given that these private detective agencies and employers are working in collusion for the purpose of hiding their connections, and that they are being advised by some of the ablest attorneys procurable.

"There is convincing evidence that there exists a thorough-going conspiracy to prevent any further activity by the La Follette Investigating Committee.

Private Detective Agencies Scored

"The American Federation of Labor, for many years, has endeavored to have the Congress of the United States make a thorough investigation of the activities of private detective agencies, including their many ramifications.

"Your committee is of the opinion that it would be a direct blow to good government and proper relationship between employer and organized employes if this present investigation was not carried on until the practices and activities of private detective agencies had been fully uncovered.

Praises Executive Council

"As the La Follette committee is meeting with every form of opposition possible applied by some of the most powerful influences in the country, your committee recommends that the Executive Council use its best efforts to secure an appropriation of not less than $200,000 for the use of the La Follette Investigating Committee when Congress convenes.

"In connection with these resolutions your committee included that portion of the Executive Council's report under the caption 'Spies and Thugs.'

"It commends the Executive Council for its activities in connection with the La Follette committee, and recommends that they be given the convention's approval for the support which they have given."

HOUSEHOLD UTILITIES AGREES TO UNION PACT

Six-Year Controversy of Chicago Machinists Against Grunow Company Brings Victory for Organized Labor.

Chicago, Ill. (AFLNS).—The Machinists' Union announced the settlement of the long dispute with the General Household Utilities Company, manufacturers of Grunow electric refrigerators and Gruno Teledial and other radios.

The controversy began in 1931 when representatives of the Machinists' Union attempted to negotiate an agreement for its members employed by the old Grigsby-Grunow Company. The firm went into bankruptcy. Then Grunow formed a new concern—the General Household Utilities Company. Following repeated unsuccessful efforts to secure a wage conference, a strike was called on May 6, 1936. Intervention of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the U. S. Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board all failed to effect a settlement. The 1936 convention of the American Federation of Labor directed the President and the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to lend every possible assistance to the employes of the company in securing recognition of the right to organize and representation through the legitimate organized labor movement.

Under the pact negotiated with officials of the General Household Utilities Company the firm agrees, union officials said, to employ only members of the union and abide by union regulations.

EAST ST. LOUIS SETS UP LABOR MEDIATION BOARD

By A. F. of L. News Service.

East St. Louis, Ill.—The East St. Louis Trades and Labor Union has agreed to participate with the Chamber of Commerce in setting up an independent Labor Mediation Board to settle labor disputes.

The Board will have no local, State or Federal connections. Instead, it will simply be composed of three representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and three representatives of the Central Trades and Labor Union. The board, having no governmental status, will simply seek to mediate differences between workers and their employers who voluntarily submit their grievances to the board. This may be done while a strike is in progress or when there is merely the possibility of a strike.

The three representatives of the Central Trades and Labor Union include: Bert Reid, of the Electrical Workers; Delbert Reynolds, foundry workers' union; and Al Curtis, carpenters' Union. The Chamber of Commerce is represented on the Board by: Nat C. McLean, real estate dealer; Arthur W. Wadsworth, vice president of the Westcott Valve Company, and T. H. Pindell, president of the Alton & Southern Railroad. Many in and out of the labor movement are hopeful that this voluntary effort to peacefully settle labor disputes in this community may prove practical.

MILWAUKEE MACHINISTS WIN LINDEMANN STRIKE

Agreement Recognizing Union and Granting 40-Hour Week and Wage Increases Ends 18 Months' Strike.

Milwaukee, Wis. (AFLNS).—The strike declared against the A. J. Lindemann & Hoverson Company by the Machinists' Union and three other unions in August, 1935, was brought to an end by an agreement granting union recognition, a 2½ per cent wage increase and the 40-hour week, with provisions against loss of seniority and discrimination against the strikers. The strike was originally declared, according to union officials, because the firm discharged workers who had started a movement to organize the employes of the company. About 600 employes were involved. The company manufactures electric, gas, kerosene and gasoline stoves.

SPEED-UP CAUSES STRIKE OF CABOT MILL WEAVERS

Brunswick, Maine—(AFLNS).—Weavers in the rayon department of the large Cabot Mill here recently voted to come out on strike, rather than accept a proposed set-up, generally termed "speed-up" by workers, from 20 looms to 40 for each weaver.

Observing labor officials contend that the return of "good times" and prosperity for mill owners is not being shared with the workers. Instead, it is stated, the employers seek to speed up production, without proportionate increases in wages to workers. The Cabot Mill employs from 600 to 1,000 people, of whom over 200 are weavers. Although the entire plant was closed down by the strike, picketing was carried on peacefully and no disturbance was anticipated.